

LESSON 116

THE CHARIOT

The Golden Dawn version of the Chariot is yet another trump that differs from many previous designs in the sense that it shows movement, where versions such as Levis show a stationary chariot that takes up just about all the card, blotting out the heavens. This radical departure is highly significant for it shows movement across a background of the sky. With the clouds situated above and below the Chariot, we find that the driver has a clear passage. The whole inference of the Chariot is that it is internal. A combination of emotional/psychological/mystical aspirations that shows growth and advancement of ones inner self.

The driver in this instance, is the soul or spirit of man, shown in the heavens, its place of abode. He is a warrior, depicted by his attire and his function is to guard the physical body, while his wings keep the chariot aloft in the main stream of aerial currents. The horses are symbols of life and death, the driver is not affected by either. Here the spirit of man patrols across the boundaries of the heavens seeking both to visit new domains and extend his domain. The separation of the upper and lower heavens is also a function of the Chariot for here the driver becomes the bridge between the two areas. The Eagle's head, bull's horns on the helmet, face of the driver and the lion's head on the hub of the wheel relate specifically to the Merkavah aspect of Kabbalism (such as the ascent of Ezekiel who saw in his chariot of light four living creatures, the lion, man, ox and eagle. Also this applies to Elijah with his fiery horses who ascended into heaven). The sun painted on the chariot in fact represents the light, or brightness, on which the chariot riders start their ascent and descent into the 7 heavens, shown by the seven spokes on the wheel. The Golden Dawn Chariot shows movement and little stability or permanence. Where some other designs indicate a more stable and permanent situation the Order design does not, for it shows movement on a variety of levels.

The face, hands and wings of the driver are coloured in the translucent colour of the King Scale, Dark Amber. The reins and harness of the horses are coloured in the complementary dark blue. This shows the influence of the spirit in control. The clear sky, between the upper and lower clouds, is also coloured in the complementary translucent Blue of the King Scale which also relates to the background of spirit. The horses are coloured in the Oxide Red of the Queen Scale. The Eagle between them is in

the complementary translucent Green to the Queen Scale, which shows the regeneration and growth aspect, which in turn relates to rising through the planes. The chariot is coloured in the Mahogany Red of the Prince Scale which shows the aerial nature of his work. The Sun emblems on it are coloured in the complementary translucent Green, as are the wheel spokes. The wheel rim and lion's head on the hub are in the translucent Red Oxide. The armour of the driver is the colour of the Princess Scale, Caput Mortuum in both its full and translucent aspect (for the shadings). The dark clouds in the upper and lower areas of the card are coloured in the complementary Blue of the King Scale which show the various gates of density that the rider must progress through to ascend, and descend through to return. A simplistic but effective way of viewing the Chariot is that in spiritual matters it means exploring ones own depths, and in material matters it shows expansion, travel with possible good results indicated by going forward in a project.

The title of this card is 'The Child of the Powers of Waters; the Lord of the Triumph of Light'. The first part of this title refers to the astrological association, the sign of Cancer and its watery influence. The latter part refers to the Light of the Chariot which can only be utilised when one has mastered certain processes, hence the title 'Lord'.

The lesson (given earlier on in this course) on the Path has catered for the mundane meaning of Cancer though it is well worth quoting a small passage from an excellent book "The Astrology of Transcendence" by Philip Sedgwick, who says: 'The Cancer nature (often represented as a maternal one) creates an environment in which another entity may be brought into light or experiences a growth pattern from the Cancer person's existence.'

The psychological concept of this card shows an instinctive protectiveness. Here the Chariot patrols the heavens and protects the boundaries of his realm. His actions are a direct result of his instincts and this causes the counter reaction of territorial rights. The Chariot driver shows a detailed sensitivity, of a reactionary nature. This of course is the defense mechanism that he triggers off when he feels threatened by outside interference. The type of nature that the Chariot represents causes a number of fluctuations and mood swings that are hard to fathom. The Chariot rider will in some extreme instances cut himself off from the outside and concentrate only on the world of his senses which he has fortified with his own laws and systems of beliefs. On the positive side of things this is not necessarily bad for it gives the individual time to recover from any outward attack. The negative part comes in when this goes on for an indefinite period, as the Charioteer needs also to grow and expand his boundaries.

The alchemical meaning of this card shows us that the Chariot is a vessel whose purpose is to utilise the driver (spirit) within so that it can in fact transform through the basic elemental functions represented by the wheel, showing a combination, a continuous but horizontal process, passing through incubation by heat. In fact it is a self heating process resulting in sublimation. The colour of the driver shows the pure substance of the Stone-Spirit. The Chariot in the sky alludes to the lack of weight of the Stone. Here one horse is transformed through evaporation (symbolised by the eagle between them) into the other.

The number associated to this card is 7. Of this Westcott says: '...there are three parts of the Soul, the intellectual, irascible, and epithymetic (desiring), and four most perfect virtues are produced. Just as of the three intervals, length, breadth, and depth, there are four boundaries in corporeal existence - point, line, superficies and solid.'

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#### DIVINATION

ON MATTERS OF Selfhood; Self Projection; new ideas; new beginnings; reactions to outside stimuli; the life force; first encounters:

The Chariot in this position shows a person, society or nation with a natural inclination to creativity. There is eagerness to start new projects, though without external help there is little power to carry things through to the finish. The reason for this is not due to any weakness but due to a lack of understanding of inner resources and where the boundaries are which must, once discovered, be expanded. The whole idea of the Chariot in terms of the self, is that one continually analyses ones internal structure, delving into the psyche to find out about ones inner mechanisms. This causes energy to be continually expended on an internal level rather than external which brings about little response to external stimuli. The Chariot in this position also shows those who are emotionally volatile.

ON MATTERS OF possessions and personal attitude towards such; personal estate and resources both physical and material; principles and feelings; management and projection; commerce, personal, commercial, governmental and national financial affairs directly relating to the self:

Power is expressed here through money, and money is used for the security of the self and loved ones (on a larger scale this relates to ones country and its people). The Chariot here shows an individual, society or nation who has a tremendous amount of self awareness, and as such has a strong sense of character, living in a world of their own, working on their own resources rather than others. There is an amount of accumulation, as regards wealth, due to constructive internal organisation. However there is a constant movement seeking out new means of income, new resources, even at the expense of discarding what has already been attained.

ON MATTERS OF short journeys; communications; relationships; brothers, sisters, neighbours; humour; identity; early education; books; correspondence; enlarging ones field of activity:

In this position the Chariot is favourable for matters of study and education - the continual quest for knowledge and expanding ones horizons - for the Charioteer applies himself to inner growth. Concerning relationships with family or neighbours there is an instinctive inclination to protect ones territory, to withdraw into ones own set boundaries when threatened. The main impetus of the Charioteer is to rely on the world of senses. In the area of communication the Charioteer operates through feelings, actions and auric vibrations more than speech. On a large scale he shows an ever constant movement to enlarging his knowledge. A message will be carried; a message will be received.

ON MATTERS OF the end of one stage and the commencement of another; the home and private life; buildings; land; parents; security; emotions; significant shifts in lifes directions; concerning the soul; the occult in its practical terms; divination:

The key impetus of the Chariot here is to make changes. There is constant activity in restructuring, changing and re-creating things in ones home environment, physical, mental and spiritual bodies. At every point of stabilisation there is another movement where one tries to expand ones boundaries for growth. However this state is not one of disorder for it is controlled and disciplined. The urge to find a better way, a more easier way, however, can lead one into making too many changes too quickly, for with each change there must be period of stabilisation. To function outside ones boundaries for any duration of time causes stress.

ON MATTERS OF love given; creativity of selfhood; the creative

will; children; entertainment; recreation; speculation; sports; the arts; gambling; fulfilling potentiality:

The Chariot here shows someone who is quite clever and agile in areas of recreation, turning what would normally be a game into an opportunity to develop or sharpen ones senses or abilities. Children are subject to deep emotions, usually beyond the depths of their parents' understanding. They do not communicate their feelings and sink into fits of brooding. Romance borders on fantasy and generally is one sided. The Charioteer must turn the dream world off and look at life with a clear mind. When one is able to do this one is more able to control ones destiny and personal relations. This card shows an endless amount of creativity which is drawn from the soul.

ON MATTERS OF sickness; employment; employees; relationships within the work environment; conflicts; service; ones sense of service; the acquiring of skills; psychology:

Those represented by the Chariot in this position would do much better psychologically and healthwise if self employed, even though they are excellent employees. This card depicts changing employment and professions which tends to keep one on the move. Employment holds little permanence. Here is the loner who is never completely satisfied through his work if working under others. In matters of health there are changeable conditions. If negatively aspected there may be etheric or astral congestion which is very likely if working under stress in air conditioned, fluorescent lighted offices. This card is favourable if one is attempting to acquire additional skills. In areas of psychology there is an ability to perceive workings of the subconscious.

ON MATTERS OF marriage and divorce; contracts; the other party; competitors, adversaries, and known enemies; partnerships; public relationships; social interaction; the law of compensation; what is lacking; the workings of karma:

Here the Chariot represents the emotional and or mental, spiritual or astral union of two opposites. It does not mean a physical union although this may occur at a later stage. Caution is urged when forming partnerships or signing contracts. This card shows someone who avoids crowds and tends to go his or her own way alone. There is generally no room for a relationship unless the other person walks the same path, otherwise the Charioteer will dream or wander to greener pastures. If planning a marriage this card advises caution. One should rethink their situation and look at what they really want out of life, for the Charioteer must not become bored.

ON MATTERS OF death and rebirth; accidents; effects of others; crime and retribution; legacies; wills; others estates and finances; joint resources; moods; sex; spiritualism; rejuvenation; mysticism; transformation; psychotherapy:

The Chariot's key impetus here is to unite the lower self with its Higher genius. The Charioteer shows mediumistic tendencies, a bridge between two worlds. In either case there are strong spiritual connotations in ones life when the Chariot turns up here. This card is transformative, but only on a personal internal level. Unless one is very much aware the influence shown here goes unnoticed and drifts down to a subconscious level. There is retribution for those wronged in matters of finance, providence. Here he is the elusive psyche. Negatively aspected, possible litigation and defeat - positively aspected there will be victory and freedom.

ON MATTERS OF religion; metaphysics; philosophy; higher study and education; legal systems; morals; institutions of learning; long distance travel; exploration; public communications; the collective mind:

One could liken the Chariot, in this position, to the statement associated to the Starship Enterprise from T.V. and movie fame: "Boldly going where no man has gone before", for the Chariot represents the voyager, explorer who knows no boundaries except his own which change at his whim. He advises those querying their future to broaden and expand their horizons. Insight seems to come from a source that appears to solve any problems you might have. Mysterious or mystical literature is found appealing. The Chariot is favourable on matters of deeper and higher study, research and invention. Long journeys by sea are depicted, however, one is more likely to go on long journeys in the mind - fantasy or dreamworld - or in the astral. News will be received.

ON MATTERS OF public honour; status; ambitions and goals reached; achievements; profession; the other parent; causes for disgrace; recognition; identity:

In any professional capacity, those with the Chariot here will have to work hard to achieve anything in their careers. The pressure or treatment one may receive from those in authority can cause a frequent change of employment. Positions held are those of a subordinate nature, secretary or deputy etc. It is best to take on a profession where one is self employed, or ones own

authority. This of course may be the case if you receive this card. On a more personal note, emotions play a strong role in ones profession, clouding many issues. This card, however, shows limited success, not necessarily due to failure, but due to moving on to more challenges after being the victorious over current challenges. There is an ever constant movement pattern.

ON MATTERS OF friends; income; social alliances; legislation; ones attitude; group activities; government, counsellors; love received; spiritual and intellectual aspirations; ideals; fulfilment; what you yield and how you benefit others:

In this position the key impetus of the Chariot is to gather forces and prepare for battle. This impetus can be applied to any of the above areas of life or can be literal in its interpretation. In reference to crowds, this card can mean either riots or triumph over minds. The Chariot shows that although the querent inquires, the querent already presumes, therefore the tarot chooses not to answer but to say that the querent will acknowledge only what is within the boundaries of their own understanding. Concerning goals and aspirations, these are far reaching and for many out of reach. Try small goals only, which ultimately will lead to larger ones.

ON MATTERS OF responsibility and contribution to others; humanistic concerns; karmic debts; unresolved problems; hidden resources; the unconscious; sorrow; health afflictions; secret enemies; hospitals; secret societies; self undoing; total identification:

Here the Chariot alludes to encourage the growth of mans consciousness. This is likened to the effect of some films and how they can change ones level of consciousness on a subtle level. Music can also be applied here as well. The Chariot works directly on the subconscious and patrols the gates of inner dimensions, hence those on a spiritual mission must find their own link with their internal thoughts and dimensions whether it be by music, films, meditation and the like. As William Blake said in his "Jerusalem": 'I rest not from any great task! To open the Eternal Worlds, to open the immortal Eyes of Man inwards into the Worlds of Thought.'

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MEDITATION ON THE CHARIOT:

Let the Student first study the overall picture of the card, then study each detail: Each symbol and image. Study the colours.

Now let the Student look at the card and feel its vibrations.
Write down your overall impression.

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exercise

Now paint this card with the above described colours. An  
outlined drawing is supplied with this lesson.

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LESSON 117

STRENGTH

In the older versions of this card a maiden or youth was depicted either opening or closing a lion's jaw. This showed the weaker overcoming the stronger by direct application and contest. The Golden Dawn differs in meaning from the other decks considerably, for here we find a woman standing passively beside a Lion who appears to be also docile. We are also reminded of the Fool and the child having a similar effect on the wolf. Since this card is associated to the astrological sign of Leo one now finds that the picture starts to contradict slightly the meaning of the sign and as such takes precedence over it. What in fact has happened is that the Golden Dawn version of Strength is more concerned with the way in which one overcomes obstacles through a type of control likened to that of the concept of passivity which does not reject the strength of the lion but in fact absorbs it. So here the title 'Strength' is clearly the same as other versions of the card but with the Lion and woman portraying how this is to be accomplished.

The Lion in the card, apart from representing the astrological forces of Leo also has numerous other associations from a variety of different levels. It represents the the beastly nature of man, the uncontrolled concept which can run rampant if aroused. The woman here has her hair in the same shape as that of the lion's mane which shows a link between them. She is the passive of femininity while he is the solar strength of masculinity. At first glance the woman is the physically weaker of the two. In fact she should be prey to the lion. The action between the two is difficult to explain, but simply, the energy of the passive force has drawn out the masculine vital energy, due to the merging of their auras. The four roses she holds also have many associated meanings for they represent the four lower centers or chakras which she has control over (they also represent the four beasts of Revelations), which in turn are the four elemental parts that make up the body and are in the form of a square. The shawl around the body of the woman is in the shape of a figure eight. This in many respects reminds us of the symbol of the serpent in the Two of Disks. On one level it is generative, sexual, and shows instinctive uncontrolled desires. Its association to the letter Teth here also becomes apparent. The self fertilisation aspect here also relates to the twin aspects of the self, shown by the woman and lion. It must be also considered that this Trump is on the path between Chesed and Geburah and shows the combination of the two actions. Here the apparently

weaker half has gained the advantage by being receptive to the situation until the stronger force has expended itself - part of the self fertilisation process.

The colouring of this card is mainly done in the translucent scale for the darker scale makes the images unintelligible, and they are only used for darker aspects of shading. The woman's skin, hair and shawl are coloured translucent Poison Yellow of the King Scale. Her dress is the Dark Violet of the Queen Scale which show the receptive nature of her empathy. The Lion is coloured Mahogany Red of the Prince Scale which show its fiery nature. The ground she is on is Green Black (this is its normal colour of the Princess Scale and not its translucent aspect), which show the fertilising process while the sky background is the translucent version of this colour. The roses she holds are a Red-Violet which is the complementary to Poison Yellow (which is a Greenish Yellow) of the King Scale.

The title of this card is called Daughter of the Flaming Sword, it relates to her birth from the fiery aspect of the martial Geburah and also to her victory over the Red Lion at her side.

The psychological association to this card is "achievement"; for Strength shows exactly what can happen when the will to succeed is applied. There is also a certain amount of self-consciousness here, which is highlighted by the woman's apparent docile nature though she is standing next to the King of beasts. Here the woman has recognised that her power has limits in the role of direct confrontation with the lion, so she has diverted his energies to other areas then quietly conquered him. The way she did this was through the area of emotion. The risk she took in trying to tame the lion was great and that is also a part of her nature, as is her will to win and conquer. One of the main differences of the psychological makeup of the Golden Dawn concept of this card compared to previous versions must be looked at again for in Strength the will to win, the pride and the power is there, but what concerns us is the way in which this is used. This is one area that differs from the association of the psychological makeup of people born under the sign of Leo. For here we find the 'hidden strength' and not the outward show of it. In many ways this is the apparent quiet calm associated with those who do not need to prove themselves. There is of course a high degree of sexuality present with this card, a point in which Crowley went to the extreme, while Carl Jung considered that a representation of both woman and animal together (no matter what it was) represents sexuality. A closer look at the two principles of the masculine lion and the receptive female also bear this out. The lion as the uncontrollable part of the Self has been seduced, not by blocking off ones desires and supressing

them but by showing, caring and channelling its energies into other areas so that the main part of its strength is too dispersed to be dangerous and can be controlled by will, expressed as the woman.

Felkin's rendition of the meaning of Strength is that the lion is very much a keeper or guardian of the path that we must eventually come across and pass. The actual technique of passage being left up to the individual though a thorough study of the card does give us the answer.

In this instance possibly the best way to describe Strength is from an alchemical viewpoint for here the woman stands (holding some roses) beside the Red Lion. In fact she is the Green Lion (shown by her colours) while the roses she holds in her hand show the colour of blood, the sap of the Red Lion. As a solvent, she drains the strength (depicted as the blood and shown in the roses) from the Red Lion - her other half.

The numerological association is 8. This was considered by the Greeks as the most powerful of all numbers for it is the only evenly even number within the decad when depicted as the cube. For the 8 is double the quaternary which shows the manifested aspect of nature, such as the four elements, and the incorporeal elements are their etheric counterparts, thus showing a communication and interaction between the two halves so that the harmonious whole can be stabilised into a type of perpetual motion or Yin and Yang.

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## DIVINATION

ON MATTERS OF Selfhood; Self Projection; new ideas; new beginnings; reactions to outside stimuli; the life force; first encounters:

The card Strength depicts a person with a powerful but controlled, if not altogether disguised personality. This sort of person is usually underestimated and many are overcome by such a personality before they are aware of this person's influence, but once aware it is too late. Response to outside stimuli is controlled emotions, outward appearance is cool, calm and collected where under the surface there is a lot of movement. This card shows that risks will have to be taken to achieve goals, new projects do not work out as originally planned, or how one envisioned them, though a working alternative will arise and be agreed upon. It shows winning over impossible odds.

ON MATTERS OF possessions and personal attitude towards such; personal estate and resources both physical and material; principles and feelings; management and projection; commerce, personal, commercial, governmental and national financial affairs directly relating to the self:

Here the key impetus for Strength is to take control. In business, a subordinate will take charge, effectively running affairs smoothly against what would appear to be difficult odds. Strength warns the querent on the danger of over-confidence and recklessness; it advises one to consolidate resources and personal energy. Money can be made through a partnership - teamwork - although there is always one element taking subtle control. Material gain is generally through personal endeavours when this card turns up here. It also shows someone taking great risks with her resources, someone who manages his/her own affairs. In general matters are under control, or heavily influenced by one will.

ON MATTERS OF short journeys; communications; relationships; brothers, sisters, neighbours; humour; identity; early education; books; correspondence; enlarging ones field of activity:

The card Strength does not, on the outset, imply a journey, it moreover shows an influence preventing one in continuing a journey. Stronger bonds are made in personal relationships and a family member or neighbouring figure may have more power over one than first realized, possibly through psychic transmission of thought although they may be nescient; but perhaps it is the querent. On a wider scale Strength shows that someone or something will make its/their presence known to you. In educational concerns, Strength shows two meanings:- the first is that one is confused, or overcome, by their study assignments. The second is that one has taken control through absorption of knowledge. This of course gives you the secret - don't fight it, sit back passively and absorb all that is thrown your way. In areas of communication Strength shows itself through auric empathy.

ON MATTERS OF the end of one stage and the commencement of another; the home and private life; buildings; land; parents; security; emotions; significant shifts in lifes directions; concerning the soul; the occult in its practical terms; divination:

Subconscious desires are held in check by the Will. In practical occult matters ones magical skills are put to use. On the domestic scene, the apparently weaker half, however passive

they may appear, holds the power (this mainly refers to women but it could be extended to suit the situation). In many instances this hold through the emotional level. Even the victim can be secretly the victor, for children will be strongly influenced by this mode of consciousness, their sympathies (emotions) bind them to the victim, and in this way the victim is the victor. On a material note the card Strength implies that what one has is becoming more - this relates to worth as well as quantity. As regards the soul, it shows spiritual intelligence guiding. As regards direction, Strength is 'being' and 'becoming', the movement is forward and out.

ON MATTERS OF love given; creativity of selfhood; the creative will; children; entertainment; recreation; speculation; sports; the arts; gambling; fulfilling potentiality:

When receiving Strength in this house a victor and victim will arise out of a situation. The victor is the weaker physically but proves to be the stronger mentally. This card shows competitiveness and those who take on something larger than themselves. If positively aspected, they will win against impossible odds by beating their target (or obstacle) at its own game. The opponents energies are dispersed and weakened through positive resistance. One can liken this card to mind games, rather than any direct physical confrontation. On speculations, a reasonable assessment will be made. Sexuality is vital though one tends to 'sit on it'. This sexual energy is often directed into creative pursuits. On a large scale this card shows internal and external assessment.

ON MATTERS OF sickness; employment; employees; relationships within the work environment; conflicts; service; ones sense of service; the acquiring of skills; psychology:

Sickness is overcome or prevented by will power. One tends to come to grips with ones problems. This card advises natural health methods and changing ones life to a quieter healthier way of life. Stress problems occur through ones work environment which leads to loss of vital energy. Those who receive the card Strength here tend to be very serious about their professions and hold their qualifications and achievements with great value. It depicts great achievement and development of internal power. It shows that one can take control of their work environment (i.e. learn to handle any difficulties). Women are warned against confronting matters directly as their power is limited.

ON MATTERS OF marriage and divorce; contracts; the other party;

competitors, adversaries, and known enemies; partnerships; public relationships; social interaction; the law of compensation; what is lacking; the workings of karma:

Although your desire to be free is strong, karma draws you into entangled relationships where one will be the stronger, mentally and emotionally, leading, or entrapping the other. In marital relationships the wife tends to make the final decisions; In matters of divorce, amicable agreements are made. This card is not favourable if one queries a future partnership or marriage. Be careful a competitor does not get the better of you. This is a situation where you cannot drop your guard for a minute. With adversaries one must make compensations but these will turn out for the better for you.

ON MATTERS OF death and rebirth; accidents; effects of others; crime and retribution; legacies; wills; others estates and finances; joint resources; moods; sex; spiritualism; rejuvenation; mysticism; transformation; psychotherapy:

This is not a good position for the card Strength. The key impetus here is taking risks. On a financial note a person will take risks with other peoples assets, who may also abuse the power he or she holds, much to your detriment. Also this shows dispersed investments with an overall large return. On one hand, Strength alludes to excessive sexuality and promiscuity, but on the other hand it shows regeneration. It is not a card of transformation, but it does have mystical connotations, inner sight being an example of this. On a higher level it is controlled emotions, on a lower it is action by instinct. It shows that one person has power over another in partnerships and if not abused can lead to a symbiotic relationship. The conscious begins to master the unconscious. Inheritance is usually dissipated before being received. Concerning death, this will be avoided at this stage.

ON MATTERS OF religion; metaphysics; philosophy; higher study and education; legal systems; morals; institutions of learning; long distance travel; exploration; public communications; the collective mind:

The card Strength, in this position, reminds one of Christ at the age of 12 when questioned by the Rabbis on the doctrine of the Torah. He confounded them with his knowledge and they became confused. This card shows the questioning of teachings and spiritual strength. There is a need to nurture the spiritual self and heighten the animal self. Thought patterns are visionary and these people do not adhere to traditional religious forms; they

are crusaders at heart. Any travelling done will be to seek or give knowledge and there is a certain amount of magnetism or control over the masses, through tapping into the collective mind. This card shows more activity in the intuitive/psychic mind than in areas of direct conscious thought applied to study or higher education. For the average person Strength works in the subtle unconscious.

ON MATTERS OF public honour; status; ambitions and goals reached; achievements; profession; the other parent; causes for disgrace; recognition; identity:

The key impetus for Strength in this position is achievement and courage. People will go all out to achieve in life, while women or men who do not meet their need for achievement are drawn to others that do and they bathe in reflected glory. If badly aspected you can become the victim of superior forces. Prominence in wealth is desired and a high standard of living is sought. Goals are reached through perseverance. Ambitions are surpassed where one receives more than imagined, however, one may not be totally conscious of what one has. In a profession you probably work in a large corporation or in employment that has a lot to do with the masses.

ON MATTERS OF friends; income; social alliances; legislation; one's attitude; group activities; government, counsellors; love received; spiritual and intellectual aspirations; ideals; fulfilment; what you yield and how you benefit others:

With Strength in this position you will receive good counsel, however, your pattern of thought will be influenced by another or a group. A political party wins over a larger party at election time through tactical means, the secret is disperse your opponents energies. A person will be able to sway a larger group or organisation's direction and humble them to his/her thinking. The type of friends chosen are those of intelligence and potential talent who are able to inspire one and whom one can help cultivate. Spiritual and intellectual aspirations are for power, fulfilment, and are achieved through winning control. You are able to yield alternative thoughts, answers, ways, to all whom you come into contact with. Or perhaps it is you who is shown a way!

ON MATTERS OF responsibility and contribution to others; humanistic concerns; karmic debts; unresolved problems; hidden resources; the unconscious; sorrow; health afflictions; secret enemies; hospitals; secret societies; self undoing; total

identification:

For Strength in this position there is a reconciliation between internal or external enemies. The method used is to absorb and channel any attacking - or stronger - force through indirect confrontation. That is don't stand in the way, step aside and let them wear themselves down while you gain strength. In sickness, one must not fight it, but come to terms with it. Healing will be a long sure process. If negatively aspected, something saps your strength, a disease spreads. If positively aspected one will win over problems. Your answer lies in the reconciliation between your positive and negative self, or the anima/animus. This card shows someone in a position to "pull strings" in a large institution.

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MEDITATION ON STRENGTH:

Let the Student first study the overall picture of the card, then study each detail: Each symbol and image. Study the colours. Now let the Student look at the card and feel its vibrations. Write down your overall impression.

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exercise

Now paint this card with the above described colours. An outlined drawing is supplied with this lesson.

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LESSON 118

HERMIT

The Golden Dawn version of this trump at first glance appears to be the standard interpretation. However, looking closely at the card one will see the Hermit gazing to his right, while the lamp is held in the left hand. In comparison with other versions the lamp is usually held in the right hand, and up high so that he can see where he is going in the darkness. Here, he is stationary and the lamp position signifies one who is waiting or standing motionless with the lamp acting as a type of beacon.

Standing alone he shows us that he is there to help guide us in the right direction. It is paramount that we must go to him and not visa versa. It is obvious that he waits for us and is also prepared to make a long journey (on our behalf), once we go to him and seek guidance. In the chaotic vast expanse of the astral light the Hermit attracts seekers of wisdom through his light.

In terms of descent from Kether the Hermit is the matured Fool as the divine spark still exists for he both leads and follows. The staff he holds reminds us of the wand of the Kerux (the Temple Officer who holds both the lamp and wand and who is analogous to Mercury, which is exalted in Virgo, the sign associated to this card). In the O=O ritual it is described by the Hierophant: 'The Wand of the Kerux is the Beam of Light from the Hidden Wisdom, and his Lamp is an emblem of the ever burning Lamp of the Guardian of the Mysteries.' The reference to the ever burning lamp is very important and relates to the Rosicrucian mysteries that still as yet have not been revealed to us. (Note: for a more detailed study of this subject refer to the paper by Wynn Westcott, reprinted in the book 'The Magical Mason' and subsequent reference texts quoted). The Lamp itself is situated in the centre of the card and has six beams emanating from it. These relate to the Tiphareth centre that the path leads to. The open right hand on the top of his cowl relates to both Yod, the letter associated to this card, and also the symbol of both protection and blessings as well as the hand of power which shows it is of Divine origin.

The Hermit looks towards the knowledge that comes from the Tiphareth centre for once this is activated and some of the hidden mysteries are revealed followers will seek him out for guidance and counsel. His long beard shows earned wisdom while his cowl shows that he is himself part of that elusive mystery

that we seek. The rope he uses as a belt signifies a binding of ourselves to his counsel and guidance.

The hand on the cowl and his skin colour are the translucent Yellowish Green of the King Scale. The cowl is coloured in the complementary Red-Violet. The beard of the Hermit is also tinged with the complementary translucent Red-Violet of the King Scale. The six rays that come from the Lamp are the King scale Yellowish Green. The robe of the Hermit is in the Pale Green of the Queen Scale and the rope around his waist is in the complementary Red-Violet. The Sky is in the Lime Green of the Prince Scale and the ground is in the Greyish Yellow of the Princess Scale while the Staff and Lamp are coloured in the complementary Red-Violet (of the Princess Scale).

The title of this card is 'Magus of the Voice of Power, the prophet of the Eternal'. This refers to the old concept of the prophet, where he wandered about preaching the gospels (an example of this is St. John) under divine sanction. It can also be taken to mean the modern Magus who gives speeches and lectures, though the archetypal imagery of the old wise man remains with us. Alfred Douglas, in his excellent book on the Tarot, gives an example of the Hermit from the works of Carl Jung which I will quote here: 'Isolation by a secret results as a rule in animation of the psychic atmosphere, as a substitute for loss of contact with other people. It causes an activation of the unconscious and this produces something similar to the illusions and hallucinations that beset lonely wanderers in the desert, seafarers and saints... As a substitute for the normal animation of the environment an illusory reality rises up in which weird ghostly shadows flit about in place of people.'

Apart from the observations of Jung, as quoted above, there are other major psychological considerations to consider as well. In the case of the Hermit we see evolvment through adaptability. It concerns us with self-reflection gained through a practical effort. In many ways this reminds one of the ancient Taoist sages of China who while in retreat studied the elements and combined their usage with both the macrocosm and microcosm, often going into extraordinary detail. The Hermit works on much the same dimension, for in his state of separation from the mainstream of the world he has had a chance to associate himself with the elements and their interactions through the various seasons. This requires quite an indepth analysis of the self and is a form of extreme but gradual self-examination. He must work these things out for himself and find the path that best suits his one personal vibration, which requires a complete reorientation of thought and action.

The alchemical aspect of this card initially focusses on the

lamp the Hermit holds. For this embodies the principles of the hidden aspect of alchemy, the Animus Mundi, which implies the hidden process (also Azoth applies here as well). Khunrath says: 'Azoth, our stone, reduces bodies to the first matter and reunites them with the universal form (hidden virtue), crystallizes it, and advances it to gems, many pearls artificially it concretes into one. Metal also as myself have seen. It frees animals from diseases and preserves them in the strength of its virtue. (Like all Philosophers Stones) It refreshes vegetables as though nearly dead will revive them. Fermentation with specific essences of simples and methodically applied in a fitting lamp, its enduring water lightened by Art burns perpetually. It expels and drives away evil spirits from the possessed - wherefore not?'. It goes on to say, 'The stone here said accurately to be fermented with its own metal, for is not light the true aurific seed, not the common light, but that which the first rotary wheel of life becomes efficient. 'So in fact the Hermit is a symbol of a healer by virtue of the lamp he holds and its marvelous regenerative process, which is an aspect of fermentation in which the divine spirit (Azoth or Animus Mundi) is allowed to surpass to ordinary limitation - releasing the intuitive process.

The number associated to the Hermit is 9, of this Westcott says. 'The Ennead is the first square of an odd number. It was said to be like the Ocean flowing around the other numbers within the Decad; no further elementary number is possible, hence it is like the Horizon because all the numbers are bound by it.'

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## DIVINATION

ON MATTERS OF Selfhood; Self Projection; new ideas; new beginnings; reactions to outside stimuli; the life force; first encounters:

The Hermit in this position shows a person operating unto the psychological profile explained above. An adaptable person, able to make gains, or, evolve through his or her adaptability. One reflects on past experience and acts accordingly to prevent past mistakes repeating themselves. The self is consciously (and not necessarily physically) separated from the 'mainstream' for self-examination and to find the path true to oneself. Thus, reorientation is the key impetus for the Hermit for some, and enlightenment for others, either on a mundane level (realization of a situation, or an answer to a problem), or a more religious level. The Hermit shows that although one has achieved a goal, a new beginning has already been made. It is as if one is caught

in a strong current of a vast ocean.

ON MATTERS OF possessions and personal attitude towards such; personal estate and resources both physical and material; principles and feelings; management and projection; commerce, personal, commercial, governmental and national financial affairs directly relating to the self:

Here the Hermit shows an emphasis on quality of possession rather than quantity. In time all will understand that the only true thing of value is human life and the advancement of their souls, thus he who has everything stands shining his beacon to show the way to others. In material matters one should not expect good fortune with the Hermit here for he is one who relinquishes material possessions and emotional ties. What one possesses is an inborn knowledge that must be developed. The Hermit represents a guide or teacher, someone who has reached adeptness. Value is placed on health and this may be an area in which you find yourself working. For some possessions are retained but a person may find himself alone with them.

ON MATTERS OF short journeys; communications; relationships; brothers, sisters, neighbours; humour; identity; early education; books; correspondence; enlarging ones field of activity:

One comes up against someone with high critical and analytical abilities whom you can learn from. Everyday affairs are handled with efficiency and there is a clarity in communication. Any journey is long and one can expect to travel somewhere whether it be in the mind or physically. This card refers to religious or esoteric education rather than the conventional. Communication in any form will be sent rather than received and this will be to far distant places. In affairs relating to the family, the Hermit shows isolation - self-imposed separation from family, neighbours, relations, friends etc. One prepares for a long journey, sets a goal, makes a resolution. This card is good under matters of study or learning of any kind. However one must walk alone.

ON MATTERS OF the end of one stage and the commencement of another; the home and private life; buildings; land; parents; security; emotions; significant shifts in life's directions; concerning the soul; the occult in its practical terms; divination:

The key impetus here for the Hermit is to improve oneself, to build a strong foundation in order to pave the way ahead. A new direction in life is to be taken; one must look ahead, never

back. Through divination, directions are sought. By applying divinative knowledge to human psychology one can predict future actions. Visions of the future come and go. On material matters the Hermit shows timely, precise actions. However there is a loss (generally voluntary but sometimes unwillingly) of real estate and/or family. This is because importance is placed on property or people which symbolise an emotional tie, yet it is the image of the Hermit, to travel alone. Nevertheless attention is paid to the health and spiritual growth of family members.

ON MATTERS OF love given; creativity of selfhood; the creative will; children; entertainment; recreation; speculation; sports; the arts; gambling; fulfilling potentiality:

Under the above matters the Hermit is fortuitous for creativity of Selfhood, the innovator. The love he represents is a universal one not a personal one, showing that a person is willing to sacrifice their own happiness for the happiness of another. Activities undertaken are solitary and there is little value or concern for time wastings activities such as sports, games and other forms of recreation. This card does not depict a paternal interest in children nor does it show association with children, however he is sometimes represented as a teacher of guiding influence for children. In matters of love attachments are relinquished so that one can continue in ones chosen direction. Any attachment can be inhibiting.

ON MATTERS OF sickness; employment; employees; relationships within the work environment; conflicts; service; ones sense of service; the acquiring of skills; psychology:

Being in tune with ones environment is the main impetus for the Hermit in this position. He represents those who are ritualistic in their approach to the above matters, hard but fair, and have organisational abilities. Relationships are like unto a teacher to a pupil, or a guide to a follower. Generally self-employed, but excel in whatever they undertake, applying themselves with dedication and exactness. On a larger scale a country, company, government or local body, etc, take their own path, relinquishing any affiliations that may stand in their way, but ready to show their way to others if they wish to follow.

ON MATTERS OF marriage and divorce; contracts; the other party; competitors, adversaries, and known enemies; partnerships; public relationships; social interaction; the law of compensation; what is lacking; the workings of karma:

This is an inappropriate position for the Hermit, as he shows one who usually ends up alone, and in matters of business a person will stand alone. Adversaries have abandoned any intent in your direction and known enemies become few in numbers. Partnerships, marital or otherwise, should not be formed when receiving the Hermit here so be cautious and discerning. In terms of Karma one has shed old karma and is now making new karma. Any social contact is made only with those of like mind, like interests, and of, or near ones social status (material or spiritual). This is not due to snobbery, however, it is more a case of necessity. If married, one partner may go away on his/her own, physically or mentally for a while.

ON MATTERS OF death and rebirth; accidents; effects of others; crime and retribution; legacies; wills; others estates and finances; joint resources; moods; sex; spiritualism; rejuvenation; mysticism; transformation; psychotherapy:

To give up old values and conditioning is the key impetus for the Hermit under the above matters. One begins to identify with the universal will. On a lesser scale, sexual energies are channelled into ones work or spiritual aspirations. This card does not bode good fortune for partnerships except in accord with ones own divine destiny. Disagreements arise over monetary matters, legacies become lengthy disputes, separation. Projects are completed. In crime and retribution, possible imprisonment or solitary confinement is indicated. There may be an illness that isolates you. This is not a card for good financial affairs. There may be a death and only one is left to go alone, or there may be a spiritual division where one walks the Path alone.

ON MATTERS OF religion; metaphysics; philosophy; higher study and education; legal systems; morals; institutions of learning; long distance travel; exploration; public communications; the collective mind:

Looking for inspired wisdom is the key impetus here. Guidance or counsel is available if you really want it and are prepared to listen, but you will only seek counsel come if it is absolutely needed - a last choice. The Hermit in this position shows that someone or something acts as a tool to guide us into the light, though what attracts us is the light and not the tool. The Hermit here is fortunate for serious study and a time of learning. It shows that directions taken are proven paths of which others have successfully trodden. A study of nations or races and the workings of minds is predominant. Viewpoints are down-to-earth, social and religious concepts are held strongly. There will be a long journey before one finds what one is looking

for, (life's journey!)

ON MATTERS OF public honour; status; ambitions and goals reached; achievements; profession; the other parent; causes for disgrace; recognition; identity:

Here the Hermit represents someone who has ascended to the top of their field, who looks on to those following, offering guidance and inspiration. On a negative side, a person or nation has gone too far in its bid for power and stands out alone. However if there is foresight of what is ahead, appropriate measures are taken to avoid isolation. Careers are self made. This card shows work in the clergy or some form of religious/spiritual manner. In ones own field of expertise one does well, however if you attempt anything outside your field there will be disappointment.

ON MATTERS OF friends; income; social alliances; legislation; ones attitude; group activities; government, counsellors; love received; spiritual and intellectual aspirations; ideals; fulfillment; what you yield and how you benefit others:

Here the Hermit shows an awareness, of the Self and the people. There is an ability to politically manipulate the masses through understanding what motivates them. Governments, political parties or politicians go their own way contrary to what is required by the population. Friendships are few and this card shows someone who is not by nature a friendly individual but is very discriminative towards involvement with groups. However once committed, there is loyalty. One must have a cause, goals are achieved gradually and the key impetus is in a purpose. Here the impetus is to serve humanity, but first one must fortify the soul.

ON MATTERS OF responsibility and contribution to others; humanistic concerns; karmic debts; unresolved problems; hidden resources; the unconscious; sorrow; health afflictions; secret enemies; hospitals; secret societies; self undoing; total identification:

A time to be born, a time to love, a time to learn, and a time to die, each in his or her own time. This is the lesson the Hermit brings in this position. The meeting of ones own destiny. It shows someone inwardly striving for perfection which leads to self-discrimination and at times feelings of inadequacy. Negative thinking can be your downfall. This card shows isolation, self confinement through ones thought patterns which result in freedom from imprisonment of the mind. Physically it shows a release, for

he is a wanderer, but a wanderer with a purpose.

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MEDITATION ON THE HERMIT:

Let the Student first study the overall picture of the card, then study each detail: Each symbol and image. Study the colours. Now let the Student look at the card and feel its vibrations. Write down your overall impression.

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exercise

Now paint this card with the above described colours. An outlined drawing is supplied with this lesson.

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